

THE OPTIC Wishes Everyone a Merry Christmas

DOZEN MEN BLOWN TO ATOMS

LOCOMOTIVE EXPLODES, CAUSING FRIGHTFUL LOSS OF LIFE

WAS UNDERGOING REPAIRS

ACCIDENT OCCURS IN ROCK ISLAND SHOPS AT SHAWNEE, OKLAHOMA

VICTIMS BADLY MANGLED

EVERY EMPLOYEE WITHIN RANGE EITHER KILLED OR SERIOUSLY INJURED

Oklahoma City, Dec. 24.—One of the most frightful accidents in the annals of Oklahoma, which caused the instant death of twelve men, fatal injury to several more and serious injury to a score, besides the destruction of property valued at thousands of dollars, occurred at Shawnee, Okla., at noon today, when a locomotive in the repair shops of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railroad there, blew up.

At the time of the accident, half a dozen machinists were at work on the engine, unmindful of their danger, while upwards of fifty shop employees were at work nearby. Without a moment's warning, the huge steel of steel and iron exploded, either killing or wounding everyone within range and wrecking the big repair shops in which it was housed.

The victims were badly mangled, those killed being unrecognizable. Fire followed the explosion, adding to the confusion and retarding the rescue of the injured who were pinned under falling debris. However, the flames were soon brought under control.

It is not known what caused the explosion.

OPERATION ONLY CAN SAVE LIFE OF ALFONSO

Paris, Dec. 24.—The GII Blas today prints a private communication from Madrid, stating that the condition of King Alfonso has created the gravest anxiety in court circles in Spain and that another operation is imperative in order to save the king's life.

The exact nature of the king's ailment has been concealed from the public. It is understood, however, that the post-nasal parts and inner ear are affected.

A PRELIMINARY HEARING IS GIVEN CHARLES ALLEN

Yesterday afternoon before Justice of the Peace Felipe Baca y Garcia on the West side, Charles Allen, who figured in a sensational shooting scrape in the Bridge saloon last Saturday night, was given a preliminary hearing.

Allen entered a plea of guilty to the charge of carrying a concealed weapon and was fined \$50 and costs which he paid. Allen was also arraigned on two other charges, one of assault with a deadly weapon, and the other, dis-

charging firearms within the city limits. In both latter instances he waived examination and was held to the grand jury in the sum of \$1,500 bail.

Allen stated he could secure this bond at Wagon mound, and in company with Deputy Sheriff Enrique Sena, left for that place this afternoon to secure bondsmen.

At the hearing, District Attorney C. W. G. Ward appeared for the territory and Attorney W. B. Bunker for the defendant.

Felipe Montoya, who was shot by Allen, is recovering slowly.

PATIENT WHO ESCAPED FROM ASYLUM RETURNED

Harry Arnold returned to the city this afternoon, having in charge Francisco Sandoval, who escaped from the Territorial Insane Asylum here. It seems that Sandoval was out walking one day in company with the other inmates of the asylum, when without any apparent cause, he decided to run away. He was brought to the asylum originally from Las Corrales. Sandoval was captured yesterday by Sheriff F. P. Perez, of Sandoval county, and was at the time of his capture at home. The man is not violently insane, but at the same time is in such a state of mind as to make it dangerous for him to be allowed to roam at will. It is reported that up to three days ago, Sandoval was in a normal state of mind, but evidently it was only a temporary change for the better. He was brought to the asylum this afternoon by Mr. Arnold.

RAILROAD EMPLOYEE DIES AT SANTA FE HOSPITAL

Harry J. Stanton, who has been a patient at the Santa Fe hospital at Las Vegas for some time, died this morning at 5:30 o'clock. Mr. Stanton had been in the employ of the Santa Fe company for some years as office clerk. For a time he was employed at the local offices and later went to El Paso where he resumed his duties at the desk. Deceased was twenty-six years of age and had been in the hospital here since November. He was a resident of Chicago and was a member of the Knights of Pythias. He is survived by a father, T. J. Stanton, who resides in Chicago. The remains are being held at the undertaking parlors of J. C. Johnson & Son, awaiting instructions as to what disposition shall be made of the body.

ALBUQUERQUE BASKET BALL TEAM IS COMING

A telegram was received today stating that the Albuquerque high school basketball team would arrive in Las Vegas tonight on No. 8, thus reaching here in ample time to be in good shape for tomorrow afternoon's game with the Las Vegas high school team which will be played at the National Guard armory. The game will be called at 3:30 o'clock. The admission will be 50 and 25 cents and there will be ample room to accommodate a big crowd. As this is the first out of town game of the season, it is hoped by those in charge that there will be a large attendance, as the expense of bringing the Albuquerque team here will be considerable, which expense must be borne by the local team. Preceding the big game there will be a contest between the girls team of the Normal University and the high school. Physical Director Yerbury of the Y. M. C. A. will officiate as referee.

BRYAN TAKEN SUDDENLY ILL, BUT RECOVERS

Jacksonville, Fla., Dec. 24.—The condition of William Jennings Bryan, who was taken suddenly ill here yesterday, was so greatly improved this morning that he decided to leave during the afternoon for Miami.

COOK NEVER SCALED MT. M'KINLEY

MADE THIS ASCENT LIKE HE FOUND THE NORTH POLE

NO PROOF OF CLAIMS

FINDINGS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE BRAND HIM MONUMENTAL LIAR

DOCTOR FURTHER DISGRACED

EXPULSION FROM WELL KNOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY BY UNANIMOUS VOTE

New York, Dec. 24.—The committee of the Explorers' Club, which has been investigating the claim of Dr. Frederick Cook that he reached the summit of Mount McKinley, today reported to the board of governors that after an exhaustive investigation it failed to find any evidence to support Dr. Cook's claim.

The Explorers' Club by a unanimous vote this afternoon adopted the report of the committee and Dr. Cook was expelled from membership. This is the first time any member has been so dishonored.

Cook's Records Sent Back.

Washington, Dec. 24.—The report of the University of Copenhagen adverse to the claims of Dr. Frederick A. Cook as to the attainment of the North Pole, is now on its way to this country for the guidance of scientific investigation in the United States.

A cablegram was received here today from the university by Prof. Howard Gore, chairman of the sub-committee appointed by the National Geographical society, to conduct the investigation under the auspices of that organization, announcing that the university had forwarded its report to the society. That report will be considered by the sub-committee but on the original observations of Dr. Cook, will, as he says, hinge the verdict of the sub-committee.

OPTIC WILL OBSERVE CHRISTMAS AS HOLIDAY

Following a time-honored custom, The Optic will observe Christmas as a holiday, as will also the merchants, banks and other business establishments of the city and town. There will be no publication of The Optic Saturday, the employees being given a full day in which to partake of joys that attend Christmas. The holiday, with Sunday, will give the employees two days' vacation in which to celebrate. On Monday a big and better paper than ever will be issued.

PROMPT WORK OF RESCUERS PREVENTS MINE HOLOCAUST

St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 24.—Eight men were killed and the lives of 400 others imperiled by an explosion of gas in Mine A. of the Chicago & Cartersville Coal company, at Herrin, Ill., late yesterday.

Open lamps carried by the mine engineers and assistants caused the disaster, according to a long distance telephone message from the mine office to the Associated Press. There were three men and a boy in this party and all lost their lives.

Prompt action by the management resulted in the safe exit of the hun-

BLOODY WAS BATTLE AT RAMA

FIERCEST FIGHTING IN HISTORY OF CENTRAL AMERICA OCCURRED THERE

GENERAL MENA SAVED DAY

INSURGENTS ON VERGE OF DEFEAT WHEN REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVED

HAND-TO-HAND CONFLICT

SOLDIERS ON BOTH SIDES DISPLAYED RARE COURAGE DURING ENGAGEMENT

Bluefields, Nicaragua, Dec. 24.—Complete details of the Battle of Rama are now known. The victory of the insurgents was complete as has been claimed by them. After two days' fighting, the fiercest Central American has ever known in her history, General Estrada on Tuesday wiped out the enemy.

Of Zelaya's army of 3,000 men, but 500 escaped. The killed and wounded on both sides number 600, while 1,900 government troops surrendered after a desperate resistance. Three Hotchkiss and 4 Maxim guns, 2,000 rifles and 1,000,000 rounds of ammunition were included in the booty.

General Luis Mena and his troops arrived at the scene of the engagement just as the battle was in balance and turned the tide in favor of the insurgents. Six Americans participated in the battle, operating the rapid firing guns. Only one of them was wounded, a man by the name of Bashford, who received three bullets in his left leg.

After the Zelaya trenches had been shelled they were taken by assault. In the trenches were several women who preferred risking their lives in a conflict to starvation in camp. These women were armed with rifles and fought courageously. One of them was wounded and later brought to a hospital here. A large portion of the prisoners were found to be mere boys, many of them under 16 years of age. They accepted defeat as though it was very welcome.

The second day's fighting began at 9 o'clock in the morning. The first day's conflict had driven the enemy back to the main fortifications in the village of Recree, where for three weeks they had been stringing barbed wire fence and digging trenches. Their position was very strong, but the provisionals, who believed they faced the oppressive rule of Madriz, as the only other alternative in the event of defeat the humiliation of intervention by the United States, bore themselves with a valor that should forever relieve them from the charge of being comic opera soldiers. Zelaya's soldiers frequently left the trenches and, advancing through jungles, met the insurgents in hand-to-hand conflicts. These clashes were followed by a retreat to the trenches and an advance by the provisionals.

who cut the wire entanglements with their machetes. Many were either killed or wounded in these encounters.

General Chamorro, who looks like a typical North American regular trooper, and General Diaz, exposed themselves with reckless bravery, walking erect amid a hail of bullets and directing the fire of their men, but insisting that the men keep under cover whenever possible. As evening approached and the enemy still resisted, after repeated assaults, the insurgents wavered from physical exhaustion, though their courage never failed. But for the timely arrival of General Mena, it is quite possible the outcome of the battle would have been wholly different. Indeed at one time the position of the insurgents was desperate. How Mena and his 600 men covered the last two miles through the brush, the General himself, is unable to explain. The clothing of the men was almost torn from their bodies in the desperate rush, but without hesitation, they charged when they arrived at the scene of battle and yelling at the top of their voices and in the face of a furious fire, plunged over the trenches of the enemy.

In ten minutes it was all over, but it was a bloody ten minutes on both sides. Scores were killed outright and the wounded covered the hill. Hundreds of the enemy threw down their arms and plead for quarter and Gen. Gonzales, to save needless slaughter, signaled that he had surrendered.

Uncle Sam to Rescue

Washington, Dec. 24.—To relieve the starvation of the captured soldiers of Zelaya's army at Rama and to furnish much needed aid to the soldiers of both the Nicaraguan government forces and the insurgents who were wounded in the battle near Rama, the United States government today ordered the Cruiser Prairie, now at Colon, to take on board five thousand dollars worth of staple supplies to be secured by funds of the American Red Cross society and proceed with all possible haste to Bluefields. This action was taken at the urgent request of Captain Shipley, of the Cruiser Des Moines, now at Bluefields, who reports that the captured Zelaya army is starving. He also said there was grave danger of an epidemic. Captain Shipley is minimizing this danger as much as possible by a thorough cleaning of the town. The secretary of the navy took instant action. A cable dispatch, authorizing the loading of the Prairie with supplies, was sent and the American Red Cross Society appealed to those officials readily agreeing to bear the expense of the supplies from their general emergency fund.

Madriz Has Resigned?

A rumor gained currency here today that President Jose Madriz of Nicaragua had resigned. Efforts to trace its source were unavailing although the representatives of the Estrada party in this city had written word to the same effect. They however, vouchsafe nothing definite, nor could other Central American diplomats.

CARDINAL SATOLLI ON DEATH BED IS BELIEVED

Rome, Dec. 24.—The condition of Cardinal Satolli became suddenly worse today through a complication of blood poisoning with nephritis from which he is suffering. The cardinal is near death.

KANSAS BANK GUARANTY RECEIVES DEATH BLOW

Topeka, Kan., Dec. 24.—The Kansas bank guaranty law received a knockout blow from Judge Pollock of the federal court here today. In granting two injunctions, Judge Pollock held the law invalid.

FIGHT TO TAKE PLACE IN SALT LAKE, DECLARES RICKARD

Salt Lake City, Utah, Dec. 24.—"It can be positively said that the Jeffries-Johnson championship fight will be held in Salt Lake," this statement was made by Tex Rickard today shortly after his arrival in this city. "I have been assured by leading business men of this city that there will be no official interference with

DESTRUCTIVE FLOODS IN SPAIN

TORRENTIAL RAINS CAUSE SOME GREAT PROPERTY LOSSES

WORST IN FIFTY YEARS

TOWNS INUNDATED AND HOUSES SWEEP AWAY BY RAGING WATERS

PORTUGAL ALSO SUFFERS

UNPRECEDENTED PRECIPITATION THERE DOES INCALCULABLE DAMAGE

Madrid, Dec. 24.—Rainstorms in the provinces of Salamanca and Leon have caused the most disastrous floods experienced in Spain in fifty years. The towns of Burgos Amora, Valladolid and Bilbao, have suffered the most. In these towns many houses have been swept away. Several towns in the stricken district are without light owing to the inundation of the electric light plants.

Eleven persons are known to have drowned in the lower part of Ciudad Rodrigo. Fifty houses were carried from their foundations there and the death roll will probably be large.

The Termaes river, north of Salamanca, has overflowed its banks, causing the greatest amount of damage. Troops have been sent to Salamanca to aid in the work of rescue. All the railroad lines have been washed out.

Floods in Portugal.

Lisbon, Dec. 24.—The rivers in Portugal are raging torrents, following an unprecedented rainfall. The property damage will reach into the thousands of dollars. No loss of life has so far been reported.

MARK TWAIN'S DAUGHTER DROWNS IN BATHTUB

Redding, Conn., Dec. 24.—Miss Jean Clemens, the gifted daughter of Samuel L. Clemens, "Mark Twain," was found drowned in a bath tub in Mr. Clemens' mansion in this city today.

It is believed that Miss Clemens was seized with an attack of epilepsy while taking a bath and drown while in convulsions. She had been a sufferer from epilepsy for a number of years.

CAT OVERTURNS LAMP; EIGHT ARE INCINERATED

Hillsville, Pa., Dec. 24.—The explosion of a coal oil lamp in the home of Santano Clerbo here early today, caused the death of eight persons and the serious injury of two others. Santano Clerbo, his wife, two daughters and a son, and three Italian boarders, lost their lives. A cat is supposed to have upset a lamp while the inmates of the house were sleeping.

Miss Katie Gandara, one of the sales ladies in the emporium of Walter Biernan, is reported to be quite ill at her home on the West side.

TWO THOUSAND LIVES LOST IN GALES IN FAR EAST

Victoria, B. C. Dec. 24.—The steamer Empress of India, which arrived here last night, brings the first news of tremendous loss of life off Korea and Japan by severe gales. Six hundred twenty Korean fishing vessels were wrecked off Gampo, south of Hun Yong, while in northeastern Korea more than half of a big fishing fleet

was lost. It is estimated the loss of life will exceed two thousand.

E. C. Butler, manager of the Las Vegas Transit company, today presented each employee of the company with a check for \$5 as a Christmas gift. It is needless to add that the checks were duly appreciated.